



The Weekly Page

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

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Pages Learn About Legislature

Big ideas in government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions, readings and simulated committee hearing activities, their understandings around the concepts deepened.



Abortion abolished

Today, Representatives John Hagstrom, and Mitchell Walle introduced House bill 1001, which addresses the issue of abortion. “The bill is a good one because abortion is no less than murder,” said Representative Walle. The bill’s purpose is to abolish abortion in Washington State. It is unconstitutional to kill infants just because the mother cannot take care of them. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 24, 2007.

Ski helmets will prevent deaths

Today, Representative Kendra Sjogren introduced House bill 2222, which addresses the issue of skiing and snow boarding deaths and head injuries. “The bill is a good one because, on average, 42 people a year die from skiing accidents, half of which are due to not wearing a helmet,” said Rep. Sjogren. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

Schools must have later start

Today, Representatives Sonia Taylor and Dylan Weinberger introduced House bill 1248, which addresses the issue of the early starting times of high schools. “The bill is a good one because it will allow teens the chance to get more sleep, overall helping them be more aware and prepared during school hours,” said Rep. Taylor. The bill will require that high schools start no later than 8 a.m., in order to provide teens with the opportunity to be more awake and ready to learn at school. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

Days made up in minutes

Today, Senators Duncan Wright, Nate Thomas, and Ryan Wolfe introduced Senate bill 5555, which addresses the issue of missed school days. “The bill is a good one because there will be no more added school days to cut into family-scheduled events in the summer,” said Sen. Wolfe. This bill promotes the idea of making up missed days due to power outages or weather conditions by simply adding minutes onto the remaining 90 school days rather than tacking whole days onto the end of the school year. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2007.



Socratic Seminar investigates the question “Are Laws Necessary?”

On Monday pages engaged in a Socratic-style discussion, in which they shared stimulating insights and questions around the

topic of necessary legislation for a representative democracy. Students created criteria for judging the value of a law.



"Our Baby Was Alive!"

Today, Representatives Katelyn Larson and Jacqueline Murray introduced House bill 2125, which addresses the issue of providing Certificates of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth. "The bill is a good one because many parents are heart broken when their still-born baby is not acknowledged to have ever lived," said Rep. Larson. This bill will provide emotional support for grieving parents by giving them a certificate that makes it very clear that their baby was alive once. Also it is proof that, even though the baby was stillborn, there cannot be death without life. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2007.

Pages write bills

Pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues which were relevant to them. Topics for bills included banning euthanasia for pets, establishing a state color, and changes in the WASL test for graduation. They reflected real issues that affect teenage lives in Washington State. Bills were later presented for consideration in the mock committee hearings toward the end of the week.



Nuclear power returns to Washington

Today, Senator Murnen and Senator Teegarden introduced Senate bill 5811, which addresses the issue of the environment in the case of nuclear power. "The bill is a good one because having nuclear power saves the environment. There are currently four nuclear power plants that are not in use. The legislation plans to restart these power plants, which would be of minimum cost," said Senator Murnen. The bill as described by Senator Murnen, would preserve the wild life by not damaging the salmon runs as our current hydroelectric plants do, thus in turn saving many fish. He also said that it would cut down the pollution, because the nuclear plants don't give off CO2. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2007.

Here come the brides

Today, Senators Jessica Tarvin and Kailani Quichocho introduced Senate bill 5283, which addresses the issue of the privilege to gay marriage. "The bill is a good one because marriage is a fundamental right under the constitution and denying its benefits to homosexuals is discriminatory," said Senator Jessica Tarvin. This bill entitles gay couples equal rights and protection against discrimination. Also this bill issues civil union certificates to gay married couples. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2007.



Committees debate bills, vote

Simulated committee hearings were held on Thursday. Pages read their bills and "committee members," governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A "DO PASS" or "DO NOT PASS" recommendation was then voted upon, allowing a bill to continue on in the legislative process. As in the real process, some bills died in committee.



Get cash for school choice

Today, Representative Arlen Olson introduced House bill 2307, which addresses the issue of school vouchers. "The bill is a good one because students will now be able to attend any school of their choice, where before they could not because of cost," said Rep. Olson. Basically, the money that would have been spent on public education for these students will be redirected to the parents in the form of vouchers. The parents will then be able use the vouchers to send their students to any school they choose. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

Private school parents receive tax credit

Today, Senator Stephanie Ritzer introduced Senate bill 5909, which addresses the issue of private school parents paying taxes that support public schools. "The bill is a good one because it will allow parents with children enrolled in private schools to save money used for public education by receiving a yearly tax credit," said Sen. Ritzer. This tax credit will be given yearly to parents paying for private school tuition by Washington State. By doing so, it would be a benefit to both the public school system and parents of private school students. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

4.0 equals a driver's license

Today, Representative Justin Cobb introduced House bill 3742, which addresses the issue of a special driver's license for 15-year-olds. "The bill is a good one because it allows students to be happier when they get better grades," said Rep. Cobb. For any student who gets a 4.0 GPA at age 15, he or she will be allowed to get a driver's license as a reward. There will be more responsible drivers, school busses will be less crowded, and there will be hap-

pier students. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

WASL help for ELL students

Today, Representatives Melissa Karapostoles, Esther Lee, and Samantha Sharp introduced House bill 2323, which addresses the issue of English Language Learners taking the WASL before given enough time to learn English. "The bill is a good one because it can take more than five years before a non-native speaker is operating at the same level as a native English speaker," said Rep. Lee. This bill will change the current time allotted to ELL students from one to four years. This allows those students to increase their English speaking ability. If the 4-year period will not expire until after the student graduates, then s/he will be exempt from the WASL. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.



Page wages increased

Today, Representative Megan Kelly and Senator Heather Shulke introduced House bill 1002, which addresses the issue of increasing page wages. "The bill is a good one because the educational opportunity of paging for the House or Senate will be encouraged through the increase in wages," said Sen. Shulke. House bill 1002 proposes to increase the daily wage from \$35 a day to \$48. With this increase, costs for transportation, housing and other expenses that are required for the week of paging would be covered. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

Driving people off of the road

Olympia, WA — Today, Senator Christian Gates introduced Senate bill 5176, which addresses the issue of driver's licenses for the elderly. "The bill is a good one because it protects the public from people that may be unfit to drive," said Sen. Gates. This bill would require a driver to retake the driving test every ten years. It would help in the removal of people who should

not be driving. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.



Guest speakers visit Page School

Representative Zack Hudgins (D-11); Representative Ross Hunter (D-48); Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D-36); and Senator Tracey Eide (D-30) joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. Each spoke about what led them to their current positions and shared insightful information about their positions as elected officials. Pages were able to interact with these guests by asking questions and sharing their own views in response to the speaker's questions.



Standard zoning laws established

Today, Representatives Ethan Dill and Jennifer Duma introduced House bill 3475, which addresses the issue of zoning laws. "The bill is a good one because it will create more privacy for home

owners and a reduction in heavy traffic," said Rep. Duma. This bill will create a standard zoning law for the state of Washington and in doing so, will cause a decrease in heavy traffic and an increase in privacy. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

Bill hopes to reduce drop-out rate

Olympia - Senators Erica Aamodt and Ritch Carr introduced Senate bill 5723, which addresses the issue of compulsory age for school attendance. "This is a good bill because high school drop-outs are disadvantaged when they don't have a high school diploma," said Sen. Aamodt. The bill will require all students to attend school until the age of 18. This will encourage students to stay in school longer and get their diploma. The exception to the age requirement will be that if a student is younger than 18 and has met all graduation requirements, he/she may leave school. This bill was heard before the Standing Legislative Page School Committee.



Seniors' driving restrictions adopted

Today, Senators Samuel Hug and Darby Hoss introduced Senate bill 6782, which addresses the issue of older drivers. "The bill is a good one because it helps protect people on and off the road," said Sen. Hoss. This bill will require tests of senior citizens to renew their driver's license annually. These tests will include but are not limited to recognition tests and response times. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

Pages celebrate at Thursday pizza party

Thursday afternoon, pages took a break from their regular duties and socialized with each other while eating pizza. This was an opportunity for House and Senate pages to mingle at the Page Appreciation Pizza Party.

Don't be a pain, save your brain"

Today, Senators Sydney Hanchett and Emily Maciel introduced Senate bill 5999, which addresses the issue of helmet safety. "The bill is a good one because it protects skiers from major head injuries and other serious injuries," said Sen. Hanchett. Wearing a helmet while participating in skiing and snowboarding reduced head injuries and is very safe. The punishment for not wearing the helmet would be to pay a fine of \$150 after a stern warning. This law would apply to people of all ages and includes people who are skiing and snowboarding at resorts only. If they would like to ski or snowboard on their own property without a helmet, the law would not apply. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

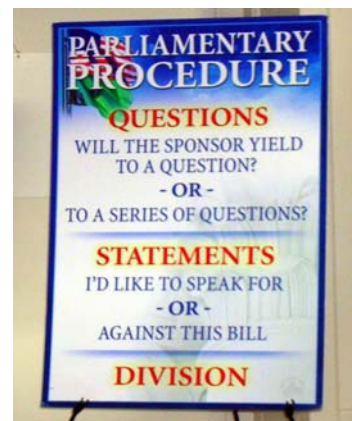


Jeopardy creates hit

On Friday pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.

School lunch prices reduced

Today, Senator Evan Jones introduced Senate bill 5122, which addresses the issue of school lunches. "The bill is a good one because school lunches are currently at an outrageous price and need to be reduced for the benefit of all," said Sen. Jones. All school lunch prices will be reduced to \$1.75 for an entrée, drink and optional choice of fruits or vegetables. This will allow middle class families a big break in school lunch food costs over the year. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.



Senior citizens to retake driver exam

Today, Senator Corbin Harder and Chris Wargo introduced Senate bill 6001, which addresses the issue of elderly drivers. "The bill is a good one because it will reduce the amount of auto accidents caused by elders," said Sen. Harder. It is proven by scientific studies that men and women over the age of 60 begin to lose memory obtained in their earlier life, maybe causing the important skills of driving to be lost by an elder. If a law is passed to require all elders 60 or older to retake a written drivers exam every five years, it will help men and women retain their memory of driving, and make the roads safer for elders and others driving. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

Babies killed every year

Today, Representatives Isaac Gundersen and Matthew Van Velzer introduced House bill 1234, which addresses the issue of abortion. "The bill is a good one because it would make the killing of hundreds of unborn babies illegal. Also it could keep many women who get abortions from going into depression or alcohol or drug abuse," said Rep. VanVelzer. This bill would make all abortions illegal whether by use of pills or surgery. It would also hold the surgeon performing the abortion legally responsible. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

Pay us what we're worth!

Today, Representatives Melanie Carolan and Claire Ouellette introduced House bill 3333, which addresses the issue of pages wages. "The bill is a good one because at this time the pages receive a wage far below the state minimum and deserve better. We love our pages. and they work hard for us," said Rep.

Ouellette. This bill would simply raise the wage of the pages to the state's minimum according to their age. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.

Rep. calls for an end to death penalty

Today, Representative Ruthie Fuga introduced House bill 2635, which addresses the issue of the death penalty in Washington State. "The bill is a good one because many people who were executed or were sentenced to be executed were proven innocent by DNA testing. By prohibiting the death penalty, no longer will wrongly accused citizens be executed for a crime they did not commit," said Rep. Fuga. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.



Reducing pesticides promotes health

Today, Representative Tabitha English introduced House bill 2245, which addresses the issue of pesticides in farms and how they affect people's health. "The bill is a good one because it will keep this state healthy and lower the amount of illnesses in Washington," said Rep. English. Pesticides destroy the immune system and kill the body. If pesticides are used to kill rodents and insects, they will probably do the same thing to our body. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.



Medical aid improved for veterans

Olympia, WA — Today, Representatives Geoffrey Nagy and Benjamin Doehle introduced House bill 3478, which addresses the issue of medical care for veterans. "The bill is a good one because it allows veterans a more acceptable and inexpensive

form of medical care," said Rep. Nagy. This bill requires veterans hospitals to stay open longer on week days and at least part of the day on weekends. This bill also requires that sponsors of veterans hospitals pay for the veterans that they have already claimed they will cover should the veteran need to be cared for in a public or private hospital. This is important since many people who claim to be willing to cover veterans have sometimes waited until after the veteran has gone through an appointment to change their mind and let the hospital charge the veterans. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.



Older drivers to be restricted

Today, Senators Nathan Joo and Hannah Lobban introduced Senate bill 6510, which addresses the issue of restrictions on elderly drivers. "The bill is a good one because it can help keep our roads safer and the elderly safe as well," said Sen. Lobban. This bill states that those over 60 must be screened for health in both general and optical fields in order for them to be approved for their license. If they do not pass their examinations, their driver's license will be revoked. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.



Hate crimes bill amended

Today, Representative Kaitlyn Schlegel introduced House bill 2765, which addresses the issue of hate crime punishment being extended. "The bill is a good one because in schools, hate crimes as minimal as racial slurs have occurred with no punishment, which is no good way to be living in our society," said

Rep. Schlegel. This bill will ensure that punishment will occur in all situations of a hate crime. Also, increasing the security in public places, including schools, is a feature of the proposed law. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2007.



Page School teachers

The Washington State Legislature's 2007 Page School employs teachers Judi Orr and Laurel Johns, both of whom are certificated teachers with civics backgrounds.

School start time pushed back

Today, Senator Heather Manning and Kelly Lopez introduced Senate bill 6315, which addresses the issue of school start times. "The bill is a good one because it will lower the chances of accidents due to drowsiness and increase the quality of work in the students," said Sen. Lopez. This bill will delay the time in which school begins by one hour. By starting school later, students will have more time to sleep each night. By getting more sleep the quality of work in the students will increase and the chance of accidents will be lessened. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 25, 2007.



Historical pages

Our Legislature has employed pages for many years. This photo is of pages who served in past years. The first female page served in 1937. In the past, pages were required to do ironing and cleaning for members.

Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: www1.leg.wa.gov/WorkingwithLeg/



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